



Coalition

Scimitar

Vol. 1, No. 12

Baghdad, Iraq

Dec. 26, 2003

ICDC takes over for U.S. Guidon symbol of Iraq's future

By Staff Sgt. Conrad College
372nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

BAGHDAD – The commander of the 2nd Battalion, 70th Armored Regiment, 1st Armored Division, presented a unique guidon to a company of Iraqi Civil Defense Corps soldiers during a transfer-of-authority ceremony Dec. 1.

The guidon was designed by the members of the ICDC company and made by a tailor in Baghdad.

“Their new guidon is a symbol of their unit and is something they can focus on,” said Lt. Col. Leopoldo A. Quintas, 2-70th Armored battalion commander.

Quintas, in presenting the guidon, said, “Today, we officially recognize the establishment of one of the first companies of the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps.” He then transferred authority to command the company to its Iraqi captain.

The 2-70th Armored is part of the 1st Armored Division's 3rd Brigade based in Fort

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Inside this week

Best Wishes from CG

General Sanchez sends holiday wishes to CJTF-7 Coalition troops
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Photo by Cpl. Heidi Cox/RAF

Happy Holiday Season

Capt. Ed Wingfield, 1st Battalion Royal Green Jackets, Stores Accountant First Class Paul MyersCough, Royal Navy and Flight Lieutenant "JP" Priest, Royal Air Force Regiment, who are all serving at the Headquarters (UK) National Support Element, Umm Qasr, southern Iraq, put the final decorations up in preparation for their Christmas in the desert.

From the commander: To CJTF-7 troops

The Holidays are a special time of year. Each nation and their people celebrate in different ways. I hope each member of CJTF-7 will use this time to enjoy the company of their extended family of Coalition counterparts and share your traditions with each other. You can take great pride in your accomplishments and reflect on all that you have done for millions of Iraqis.

You and your families have made great sacrifices, and even though we still have much to do, we have made monumental progress. Every day in Iraq we are closer to setting the conditions for Iraq to govern itself. By your very presence, each of you are playing a significant role in the history of Iraq and the world. Although most of you will not be home for the holidays, you can take pride in the fact that you are repre-



General Sanchez

senting your country in a place where freedom has been restored.

It is never easy to be away from home during the holidays. My heart goes out to your families and loved ones for their sacrifices. I want to especially thank them for their support, please pass along my thanks. Take time out during the Holidays to express your appreciation for the support your families and friends have shown while you have been gone.

Enjoy the holidays when and where possible. I wish each member of the Coalition a safe Holiday Season. Take care of each other, watch over each other, and enjoy each other's company. The entire leadership of CJTF-7 joins me in sending you and your families our very best wishes for a safe Holiday Season.

Ricardo S. Sanchez
Lieutenant General, US Army
Commanding

Iraqis train for border security

Story and photo by Sgt. Joe Healy
82nd Airborne Division

AL QA'IM – Hundreds of local citizens gathered Dec. 7 to be the first recruits for the recently established Iraqi Border Patrol in this western Iraqi town.

“At the end of the day, we ended up filling approximately 200 slots for the Iraqi Border Patrol,” said Maj. Paul Phillips, a civil affairs officer with the 432nd Civil Affairs Battalion.

“Eventually the number of recruits will double, and then triple. This is an excellent example of Iraqization — Iraqis securing Iraq — to help make their coun-

Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

The Army's 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, from Fort Carson, Colo., is responsible for the security of about 800 miles of Iraq's borders.

“Third ACR wants to train the citizens of this area to secure Iraq's borders themselves,” said Capt. Steve Smith, 1st Squadron, 3rd ACR.

Sitting behind an Army field desk located in the barren parking lot of an enormous semi-functioning phosphate plant, Phillips and his soldiers watched as Iraqis lined up for registration.

The Iraqis — most of whom were wearing traditional turbans on their heads and sweatshirts with American sports logos sewn on the sleeves — patiently waited to register into the U.S.-trained organization.

Phillips said that after registration, the recruits were transported by bus to an undisclosed location to begin the 10-day training seminar.

According to Smith, the Iraqi Border Patrol recruits will receive excellent training.

“I've got about 80 of my 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment sol-

diers ready to train these new Iraqi recruits,” said Smith.

Smith said the Iraqi Border Patrol recruits will learn how to conduct individual and vehicle searches, defend a

perimeter, fire weapons and study the laws of ground warfare.

Many of the recruits will soon help patrol the Syrian-Iraq border.

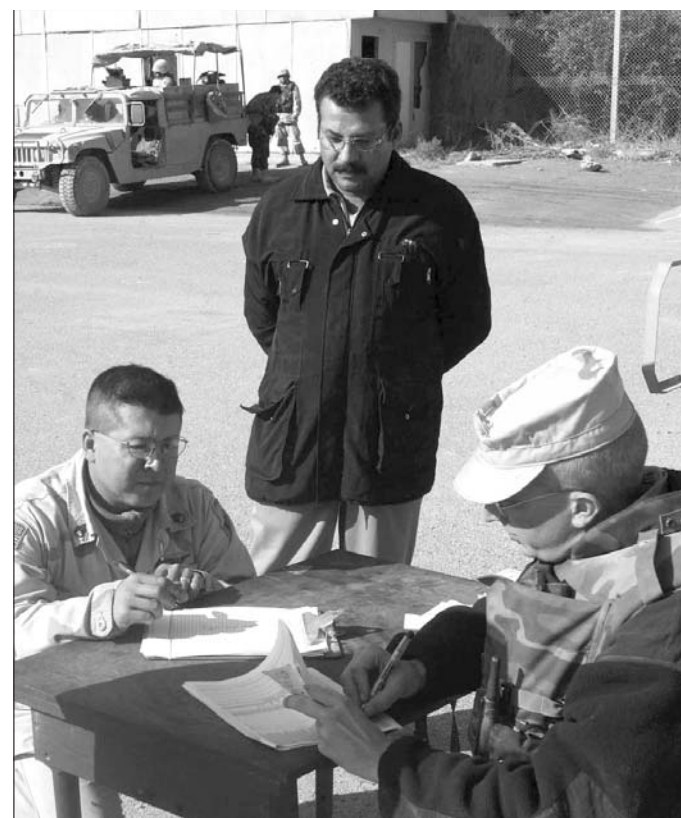
Smith believes having Iraqis securing their own border will ultimately make the borders stronger.

“When people start seeing Iraqi faces securing Iraq's borders, it will strengthen the border's integrity,” said Smith.

Smith noted that the soldiers in the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps are the best recruiters for the Iraqi Border Patrol.

“People in this area have great respect for what the ICDC is doing. When the ICDC soldiers endorsed the Iraqi Border Patrol, it became very popular amongst the locals,” said Smith.

“The beginning of the Iraqi Border Patrol is a good thing for this area, the U.S. military and all of Iraq,” said Raja Nawaf Fahren, the mayor of Al Qa'im. “Iraq is helping Iraq. I am very proud of



Staff Sgt. Mario Franco and Maj. Paul Phillips, both assigned to 432nd Civil Affairs Battalion, sign up Iraqi citizens for the recently established Iraqi Border Patrol. The Iraqi Border Patrol will secure nearly 800 miles of Iraq's borders. Iraqi Border Patrol training began Dec. 8.

the citizens who signed up here today.”

Fahren indicated the Iraqi Border Patrol will also help create jobs for the people in the area.

“Since the war, our economy has slowed down, but this program will pick it back up,” said Fahren.

“*This is an excellent example of ‘Iraqization’ — Iraqis securing Iraq — to help make their country safer and more secure.*”

— Maj. Paul Phillips
432nd Civil Affairs Battalion

try safer and more secure.”

The new recruits received a \$10 signing bonus from the US military and began border police training the following day.

The purpose of the Iraqi Border Patrol is to fortify Iraq's borders with Syria,

Sergeant wins award for “selfless service”

Story and photo by Sgt.
Joe Healy
82nd Public Affairs Office

AL ASAD – Selfless service and personal courage are two of the Army's core values.

In early May, Spc. Wilder L. Morey, a Blackhawk repairman assigned to the 571st Medical Company (Air Ambulance), 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, demonstrated both values as he worked feverishly to save the lives of other soldiers while risking his own.

On the afternoon of May 9, Morey's Medical Evacuation team, commonly known as MEDEVAC, got an urgent request to evacuate an 11-year-old Iraqi boy who had fallen victim to a land mine explosion near Samarra, Iraq. Two aircraft were dispatched one of which was Morey's.

Morey's aircraft landed at the scene and he quickly provided security while a medic attended to the boy.



Spc. Wilder Morey, a Blackhawk repairman with the 571st Medical Company, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment performs a pre-flight inspection prior to takeoff. Morey was awarded the Army's 2003 Medevac Crewmember of the Year.

While providing security, Morey saw the second aircraft nose-dive toward the ground and disappear behind several buildings.

The aircraft's rotor blade had struck a cable wire and crashed in the Tigris River.

Morey, Sgt. Robert Williams and Sgt. Steve Cramer, both crewmembers with Morey, jumped into the river to rescue the crew.

Morey found one soldier trapped in a helicopter seat underneath the water. Working quickly, Morey tried to free the soldier by diving underneath the water's surface and cutting the safety belt strap. While Morey was working, Williams

and Cramer were able to remove another soldier from the aircraft, but the soldier needed urgent medical attention. Morey stayed with the trapped soldier, while Cramer and Williams evacuated the other to a nearby medical facility.

As Morey continued to dive under the water to save “his” soldier, he heard gunshots and quickly realized it was enemy contact. Alone, Morey continued to dive and eventually was able to free the soldier. While under heavy gunfire, Morey administered CPR to the soldier. Unfortunately, the soldier did not survive. However, the evacuated soldier made a full recovery.

“Morey's selfless action and obvious willingness to risk his own life confirm his dedication to the unit,” said Maj. William P. LaChance, commander of the 571st. “He thrives in a high-intensity environment. The more challenging the task, the better he performs.”

For this act of courage, Morey will be named the 2003 MEDEVAC Crewmember of the Year in San Antonio Feb. 21.

Morey, a soft-spoken Midwesterner from Warroad, Minn., is more concerned about doing his job than going to San Antonio.

“I've never been to Texas and it'll be fun, but I've still got work to do here,” said Morey, as he conducted a pre-flight inspection getting ready for the next mission.

Unsung Heroes

Marching the extra mile across Iraq



Kirkpatrick

Tech. Sgt. Rachel Kirkpatrick is a command post specialist deployed to Balad Air Base from Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. She is responsible for creating the daily schedule and flight follow up to more than 25 daily flights and sending out commander's situation reports to higher headquarters.

"Sergeant Kirkpatrick attacks each challenge with team-focus and a cheery can-do attitude," said her supervisor. "She has applied her technical expertise to the initial development and continued improvement of procedures for production of the commander's daily Situation Report to higher headquarters, the local daily flying schedule, maintenance of mission records and the execution of daily flying."



Singleton

Staff Sgt. Anthony Singleton is a member of the 222nd Broadcast Operations Detachment and the technical director for Armed Forces Network-Iraq.

Singleton played a key role in Baghdad helping AFN-I launch its radio signal across Iraq earlier this week.

Using his technical expertise, Singleton coordinated with other technicians in Germany to re-route the station's signal to an alternate satellite that eventually allowed the signal to reach eight other locations across Iraq.

"Without Singleton's effort we would not have been able to broadcast country-wide," the commander of AFN-Iraq said.



Berlo

Staff Sgt. Albert Berlo of Martinsburg, W.Va., is a member of the 352nd Civil Affairs Command in Baghdad. Berlo is the NCO for the logistic and support for the Iraqi Assistance Center at the Baghdad Forum. His main responsibility is providing guidance to a staff of Iraqis who help other Iraqis track down relatives that Coalition forces have detained.

"I try to help them find answers. They just want to know where their love ones are," Berlo said.

Berlo, like other civil affairs assets, is trying to train and teach himself out of a job. His responsibility is to show Iraqis how he does a particular job so someday the Iraqis will be able to perform the job themselves.



Adams

Tech. Sgt. Brian Adams is the NCOIC of Public Health at Balad Air Base. Since his arrival to Iraq in November, Sergeant Adams, who deployed from Dover AFB, Del., has been responsible for ensuring more than 630 airmen receive information to keep them healthy.

"At a forward deployed location like Balad, keeping people safe and healthy is my number one top priority," said his supervisor. "Sergeant Adams is my right hand man for all Public Health issues. I don't know what I would do without him. When it comes to staying safe and healthy, we all owe a huge debt of gratitude to Sergeant Adams."

Guidon

Continued from Page 1

Riley, Kan. The battalion's forward operating base is between the Abu Ghraib and Ameria neighborhoods of western Baghdad.

The ICDC company has three platoons of about 30 men. The ICDC company commander is Capt. Falah Hassan Hussein, and the company's first sergeant is 1st. Sgt. Youssif Habeeb Thahir. Quintas spoke to the ICDC soldiers, who stood in company formation. Quintas noted that even

before the ceremony, the company had achieved many distinctions. He said the first and second platoons were some of the original platoons of the ICDC. And, after their basic training, portions of this company were the first to conduct tactical operations in Iraq back in August.

"Several members of this company have fought against our enemies," Quintas said, "engaging them from guard positions just outside this compound while defending the municipal area of Abu Ghraib.

"Most recently," Quintas continued, "this unit

(of ICDC) was the first in Iraq to conduct operations at the company level."

Speaking to the Iraqi soldiers, Quintas then said, "Soldiers of the ICDC, you should be very proud of yourselves. I am proud of you. You are the brave sons of Iraq, ready to fight for the freedoms and liberties that you, your families and your fellow citizens enjoy today.

"You, more than anyone else, understand that freedom does not come freely. A price must be paid, courage must be shown, and steel must be ready to meet steel in combat."

Coalition Scimitar

Troops are encouraged to submit photographs and stories for consideration for publication in Coalition Scimitar.

Submissions may be sent to cpiccmdinfo@baghdadforum.com.

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101st provides heat to local mosques, churches

By Pfc. Thomas Day
40th Public Affairs Detachment

MOSUL – As part of a \$30,000 project to supply heaters to local mosques and churches, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) recently delivered 100 kerosene heaters to the Ninevah Province Ministry of Religious Affairs.

To date, 200 additional heaters have been supplied to the ministry office, where imams and priests picked them up

to heat their mosques and churches during cold winter months. The initiative was directed by Maj. Gen. David H.

Petraeus, 101st Airborne Division (Air



Iraqis unload heaters donated by the 101st Airborne Division.

Assault) commanding general, as part of his continuing engagement policy, according to the division's top chaplain.

"He's putting up the money for this. It's money out of his office. I'm just the 'go-fer' to make it happen," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Chester Egert of Hampton, Va., division chaplain for 101st Airborne Division. Egert oversaw the heater drop in Mosul.

The heaters will serve more practical purposes than just goodwill with the citizens of Mosul. Mosques and churches with electrical heat will now have an 'insurance policy' for when the power goes out.

Egert and Dr. Saleh Khalif Saleh, Ninevah minister of religious affairs, have worked together for the heater drops and future plans include rebuilding the ministry office located just a block from the Mosul City Government Building. The building's leaky roof has caused flooding in the basement where archived files are stored, some of which are centuries old.

"Some of their records and paperwork have been badly damaged," Egert said.

Not all of the 1,200 mosques in the Ninevah Province will receive a heater, but the efforts will continue.

"On the socio-political side of things, I think it extends a hand to the local populace. You could say we're both Guns and Roses," said Chaplain (Capt.) John Stutz of Austin, Texas, 101st Airborne Division.



Lt. Col. Welton Chase, Jr. (left), commander of the 501st Signal Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), speaks to an assembly of telecommunication leaders from around Iraq including Col. Tom Catudal (second to left), chief telecommunication advisor to L. Paul Bremer, Coalition Provisional Authority civilian administrator. The group exchanged ideas for improving telecommunication for citizens of northern Iraq.

U.S., Iraqi leaders gather to discuss telecommunication

By Pfc. Chris Jones,
40th Public Affairs Detachment

MOSUL – Leaders throughout northern Iraq assembled in Mosul recently to discuss the telecommunication progress made through the efforts of Coalition forces and Iraqi citizens, and to develop a regional strategy for the next phase of communications.

Iraq's two largest cities, Mosul and Baghdad, each had representatives present. Various signal officers of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) spoke on behalf of Mosul, while Baghdad was represented by Col. Tom Catudal, chief telecommunications adviser to L. Paul Bremer, Coalition Provisional Authority civilian administrator.

Telecommunication experts from Dohuk, Kirkuk and Irbil were among the other major players in the summit.

"I think you all know that telecommunication in northern Iraq has really led the way for the rest of Iraq," said Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus, 101st commander. "The accomplishments here really have been extraordinary."

Ranking project

Communications ranks second on Petraeus' project funding list, having spent almost \$4 million on such acts as restoring phone lines, donating computers and telephones, and purchasing new equipment from the United States. Only reconstruction efforts to schools have taken more Coalition capital than communications advancements in northern Iraq, said Lt. Col. Welton

Chase, Jr., 101st signal officer and commander of the 501st Signal Battalion.

The 101st Airborne Division has already completed 31 major communications projects in northern Iraq, including its donation of 212 computers to Mosul University, an act that cost \$99,790. The division is also responsible for 11 new Internet cafes and the reconstruction of several post offices in the Nineveh Province.

Thirty-two long-term communications projects are still in the works for the 101st, as well as 21 short-term projects, Chase said.

Future projects

"We've had a lot of projects completed already, and we've done so through relatively little investment," Petraeus said, noting that many U.S. businesses, such as ATT and Bell South, have helped Coalition forces maintain a reasonable budget by donating fiber optic to repair telephone lines.

"What has made all of our success here isn't just the dollars – it's not the even the donations – it's really the initiative that [Coalition forces and Iraqi citizens] together have demonstrated."

Petraeus led the meeting by explaining the progress and the hindrances experienced by his soldiers throughout Operation Iraqi Freedom, then exchanged his ideas for the future of communication in Iraq with the handful of Iraqi telecommunication directors representing the various cities in Nineveh Province.

"Our vision for northern Iraq is a

very modern region in which people from many different ethnicities, tribes and religions work together, do business with each other, and they are all supported and enabled by a first-rate telecommunications system," Petraeus said.

"Signalers" of the 101st are presently involved in dozens of missions across northern Iraq, including acquiring a \$42,000 modern cable splicing machine from the United States, said Maj. Jim Enicks, division communications officer. Currently, many Iraqis mend frayed telephone cables by hand.

Going on line

Coalition forces have also been active in getting Iraqi children on-line and working with computers, a goal which will improve both education and communications in Iraq. After opening the Scientific Club — a computer and Internet lab for children in primary and secondary school — to significant success, the 101st plans to provide 17 new computers.

Redeployment

At the conference, Chase stressed to the Iraqis on-hand that when much of the 101st redeploys back to the United States, the next team of Coalition forces in the area would help add to the success already made.

"All of you know that the Coalition forces here are transitioning," Chase said, "but we have great soldiers coming, and they will not leave our support. They will continue the process we've started toward a better Iraq."